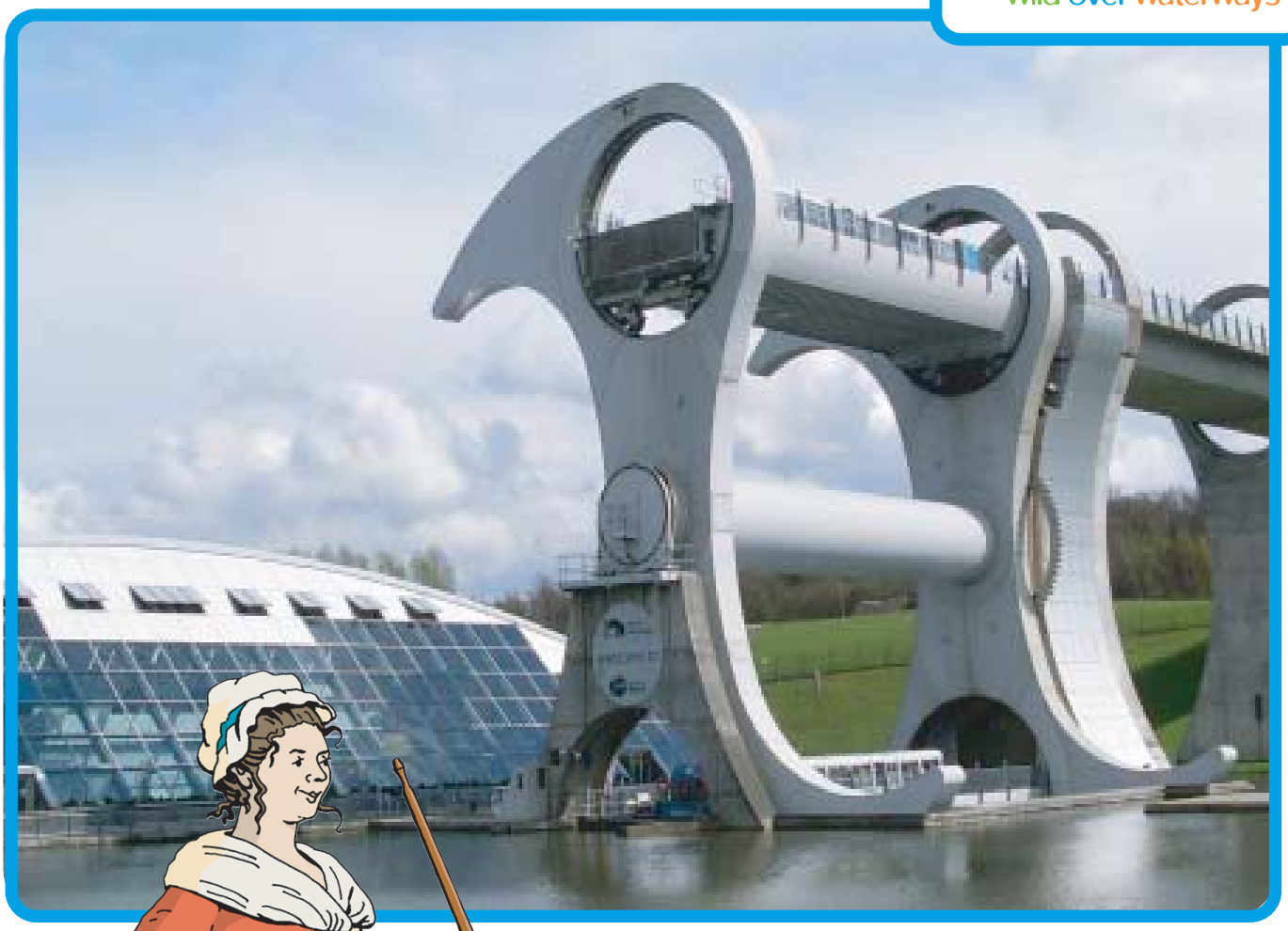
The Falkirk Wheel

Jessie's Trail

wild over waterways



Hello. I'm Jessie Nimmo, the lock-keeper's daughter and I was born the same year as they started building the Forth & Clyde Canal.

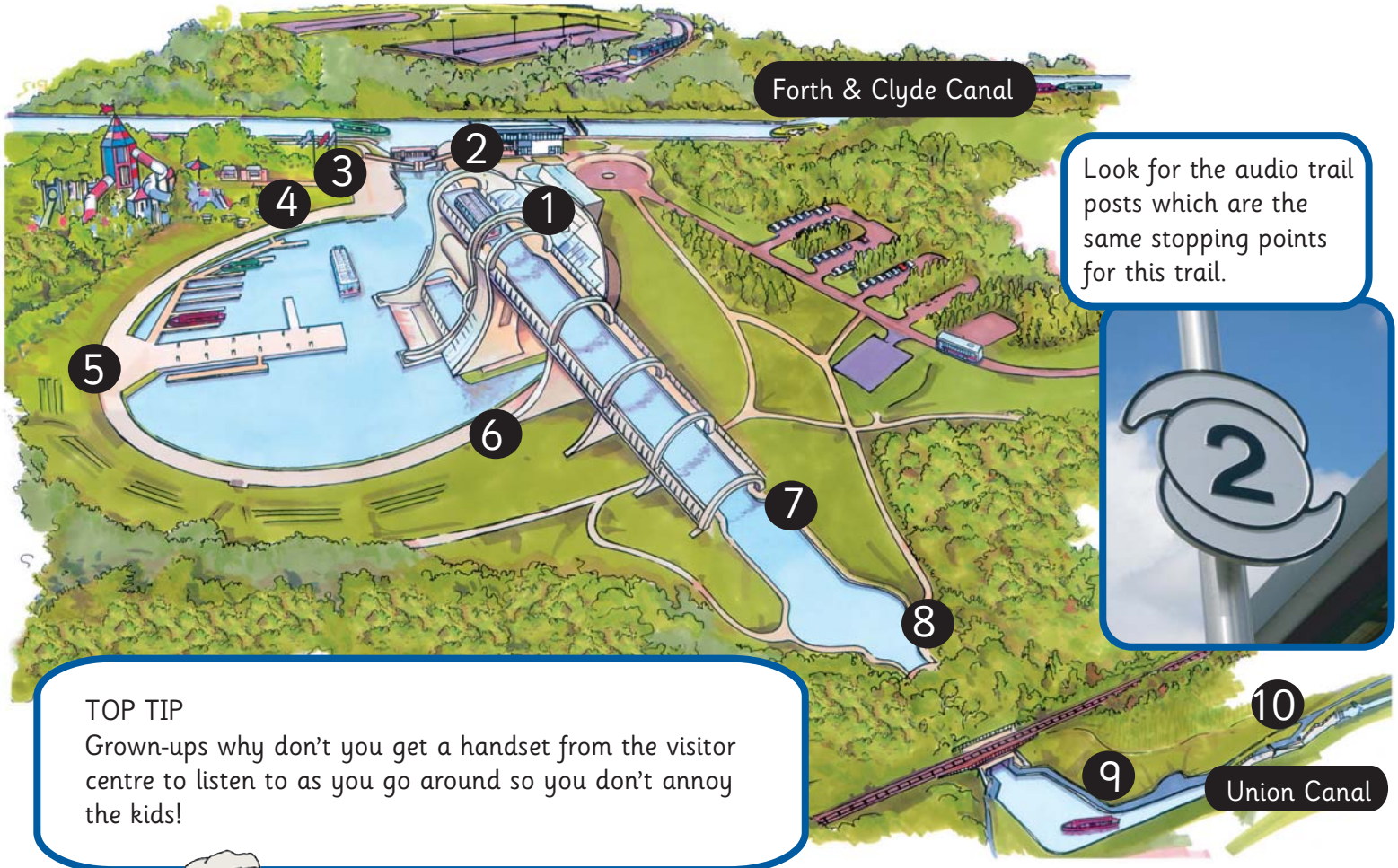
www.wow4water.net

The Inland Waterways Association

British Waterways Scotland

The Waterways Trust

Use The Falkirk Wheel map to help you find your way around



Look for the audio trail posts which are the same stopping points for this trail.

TOP TIP
Grown-ups why don't you get a handset from the visitor centre to listen to as you go around so you don't annoy the kids!

Wheel Words

1

Well they certainly didn't have a visitor centre when I lived here. Look at that great big window! You can see the wheel from here - that definitely wasn't there in 1790!

What 3 words would you use to describe the wheel?
(Mine would be: weird, strange and odd!)

Bantaskin Locks

Well, I'm glad to see there are still some locks on the canal. I hardly recognise it. When I lived here, you had to pass through 11 locks to get between the Forth & Clyde and the Union Canal. There was no wheel then.

It did take a lot longer to go between the two canals going through the Bantaskin Locks.

Look! That's the Forth & Clyde Canal down there.

This doesn't look like one of the locks my dad looked after. It's in a different place and it looks new.

2

Can you see when it was built?

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Working Boats

3

Will you look at that! Who would have thought people would be taking holidays on boats. Do people from the future do no work?!

How do you think the boats were powered in my day?

They had to carry cargo to where it was needed.
Can you imagine what boats might have looked like?

Spinning Wheel

Have you been watching the wheel? It is amazing isn't it? It is so quiet and hardly takes any time at all to take boats up and down.

The wheel turns both ways to prevent wear.

4 **Which way is it turning today?**

Working Waterways

5

Hello! Who are you? Do you work here? You should be up there turning the wheel - there's a boat waiting to go up

I'm Norman I work for British Waterways.
I'm just doing part of my job and checking that the basin is in working order.

We have machinery and computers to turn the wheel.
We don't turn it by hand!

What boats can you see in the basin?

What do you think their job is?

What other types of boat can you think of?

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Watery Sounds

You can really see the machinery that works the wheel from here. It is clever how it works, not like all the hard work we had to do to operate the locks.

See this stick I'm carrying? It was used to operate the old locks. How do you think I used it?

If you look up you can see the aqueduct. It is amazing to think of all that water above our heads.

What sounds can you hear from the wheel now we're so close?

6

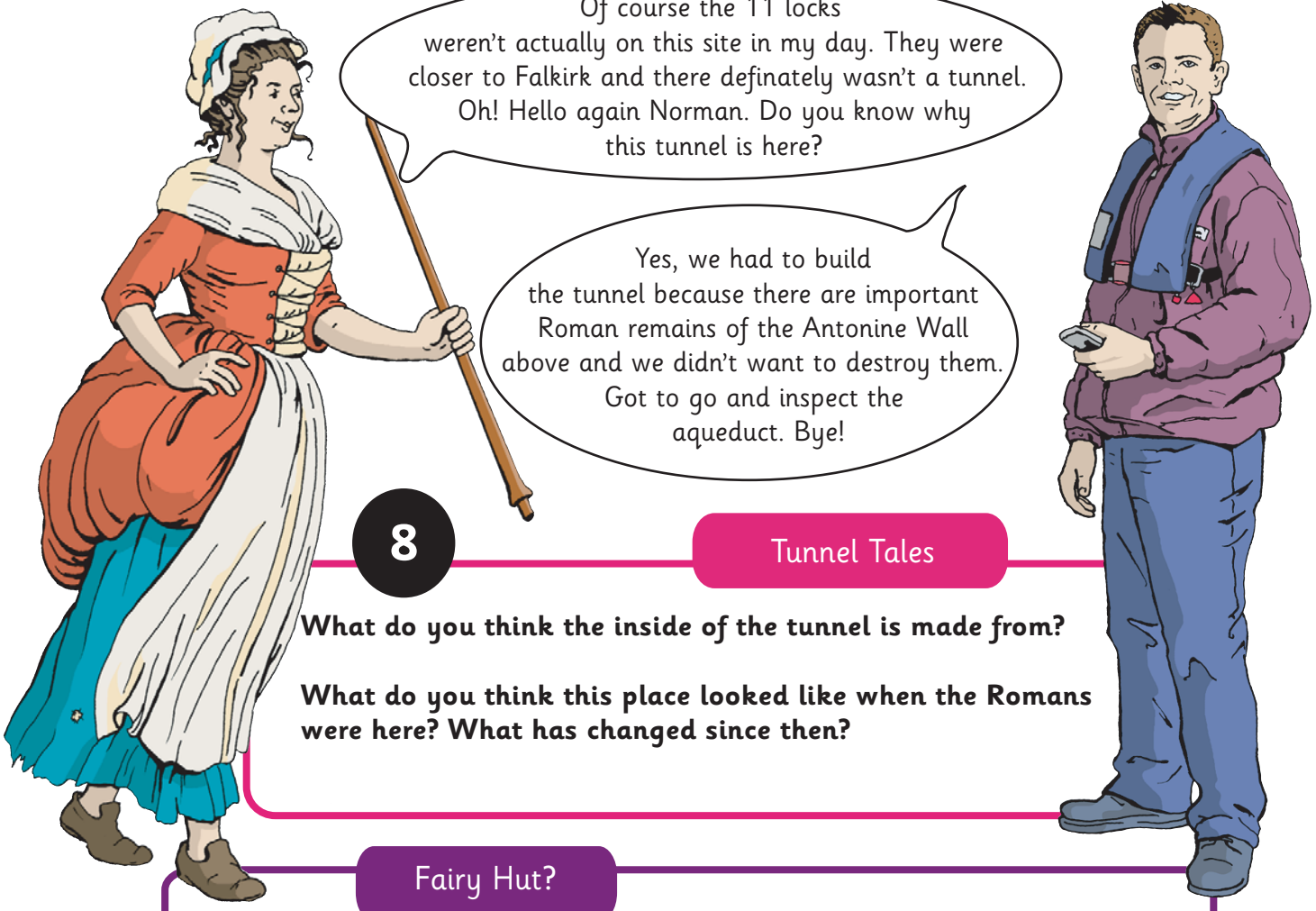
7

Drawing Water

What a view! You can see the whole world from up here. Look at that aqueduct! It's incredible!

Draw the view down the aqueduct

Always remember to stay **SAFE** near water - **S**tay **A**way **F**rom the **E**dge



8

Tunnel Tales

What do you think the inside of the tunnel is made from?

What do you think this place looked like when the Romans were here? What has changed since then?

Fairy Hut?

Well! What's that funny little building?! Can you guess what it's for?

9

Lock numbers

Now here are some real locks moving boats up and down. Make sure you stay away from the edge. Locks can be very dangerous.

You've seen how quickly the wheel can move a boat from one canal to the other. Let's see if you can work out how long it used to take using the 11 locks.

It took about 20 minutes to go through each lock as it was such a busy junction between the canals. There were 11 locks, so how long did it take to get through them all?

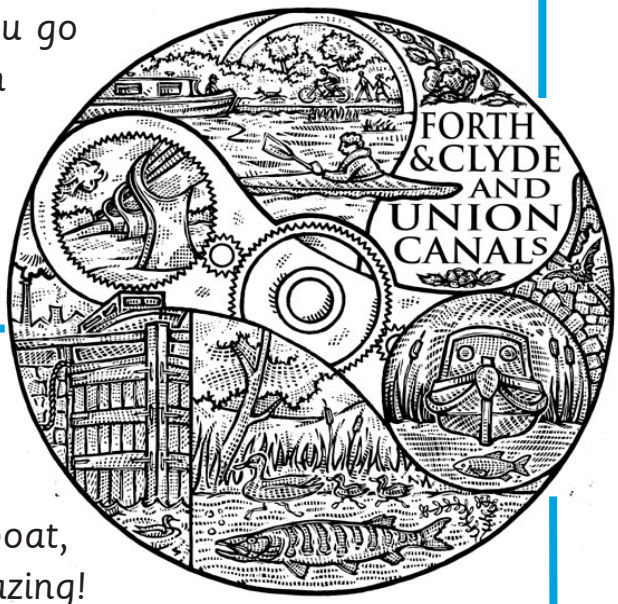
10

Always remember to stay **SAFE** near water - **S**tay **A**way **F**rom the **E**dge

What else can I do at The Falkirk Wheel?

Brass Rubbing

Why not look for the information boards that have brass rubbing panels as you go around? Collect them all and fit them together to create a fantastic picture to remind you of your day.

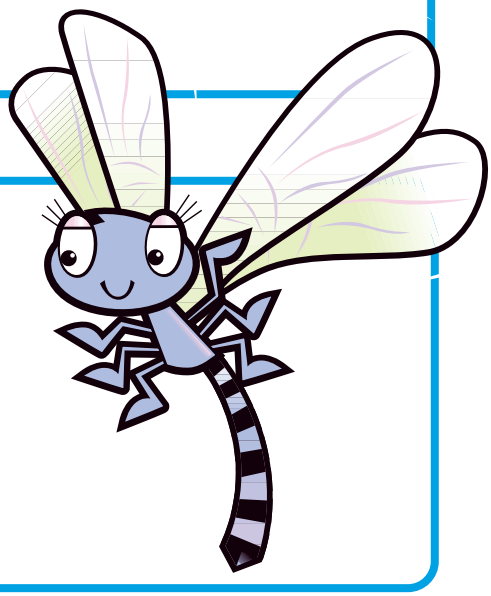


Boat Trip

Boat trips run all through the day giving you a chance to ride the lift. Wow exciting! When you're on the boat, just listen to how quiet it is. It's amazing! The trip lasts about 60mins.

Playground

There is a great playground at The Falkirk Wheel. Why not take some time off sculpture hunting and try it out?



Exhibition, cafe and shop

Take a visit to the exhibition and find out more about the lift. You're going to be an expert soon! Then you could visit the shop for a souvenir to remind you of your day or have a well earned drink at the cafe.

Download a Fact File or Trail to find out more about The Falkirk Wheel from **www.wow4water.net**.